

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-226

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Joseph Brooksby Water Catchment Redevelopment

**Region and Game Management Unit:** Region II, GMU 13A

**Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):**

- Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group

**Was the project presented to the LHPC?**  
YES ☐ NO ☒

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group and is part of the statewide Water Implementation Schedule, as well as the local regional water prioritization.

**Has this project been submitted in previous years?** YES ☐ NO ☒

**If Yes, was it funded?** YES ☐ NO ☐ → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

**Project Type:** Cooperative Livestock/Wildlife Water Catchment Apron Redevelopment Cost Share Project

**Brief Project Summary:**

This project will be an apron redevelopment of the Joseph Brooksby Cooperative Water Catchment in southern GMU 13A, located south of Sunshine Point on the eastern edge of Hacks Canyon. Redevelopment of this apron will include an upgraded apron material made of polyethylene hard plastic replacing the deteriorated biddum tar apron at the site. This apron will flow into 4 sausage storage tanks already at the site. The allotment owner at this site is in agreement to cost share on this project, leave the water turned on year-round at this site, and at his livestock water to the north for the increase in mule deer and bighorn sheep that have been utilizing these waters in the area. Redevelopment of this catchments apron will increase AZGFD statewide strategic goals, AZGFD water development implementation plans on the Arizona Strip, and BLM objectives for management of mule deer, bighorn sheep, and wildlife habitat.

**Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:** Desert Bighorn Sheep and Mule Deer

**Implementation Schedule** (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: Spring 2015

Project End Date: Summer 2016

**Environmental Compliance:**

NEPA Completed: Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Projected Completion Date: Falls under maintenance

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Projected Completion Date: Falls under maintenance

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A ☒

To be Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT FUNDING**

**Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:** \$ 7,000.00

**Cost Share or Matching Funds:** \$ 3,000.00

**Total Project Costs:** \$ 10,000.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION		
<b>Applicant</b> (please print): Jeremy Felish Wildlife Manager III, GMU 13A	<b>Address:</b> 3500 South Lake Mary Road Flagstaff, Arizona 86001	<b>E-mail:</b> Jfelish@azgfd.gov
<b>Telephone:</b> 928-856-0726		<b>Date:</b> September 1, 2014
<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):		
<b>Project has been coordinated with:</b> Bill Gubler, Allotment Permittee Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District Natural Resource Conservation Service Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group		

#### NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Joseph Brooksby Catchment is located on Bureau of Land Management Public Lands located near Sunshine Point on the eastern rim of Hacks Canyon. This catchment started out as a reservoir that the BLM allotment permittee piped out of into sausage storage tanks, to keep overflow for drought years. Eventually the BLM and allotment permittee constructed an apron that then ran into the sausage tanks that piped into a livestock water trough. In recent years, the permittee and District Wildlife Manager have come into agreement to keep this livestock water on year-round for wildlife to benefit from. The water catchment has since seen an increase in mule deer and bighorn sheep activity. This water catchment has become a critical water source for bighorn sheep during lambing times as it is near Hack's Canyon cliff ledge and provides a great amount of cover for bighorn sheep during this time.

Presently, the existing biddum tar apron is small in size, deteriorating, has a lot of holes through it, and has several rips and tears on it which is causing the apron to be ineffective in capturing precipitation. The apron is also very porous allowing a lot of water to escape before it makes it to the collection drain.

This water catchment is located in a very crucial summer range for mule deer and bighorn sheep. This habitat has seen a significant increase in population of both mule deer and desert bighorn sheep over the past several years, and is used extensively by bighorn sheep during lambing months. This water serves as a dependable perennial water source for mule deer, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife utilizing this area of GMU 13A.

Redevelopment of this apron will improve water collection and the lifespan of the water catchment. Redevelopment in this cost share project will also increase relationships with the allotment permittee and the Arizona Game and Fish Department for other water and range projects. Redevelopment of this catchment will increase AZGFD statewide strategic goals, Arizona Strip water development implementation plans, and BLM objectives for management of mule deer and wildlife habitat.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Improve water availability and distribution for wildlife, in particular mule deer and bighorn sheep.
- Improve habitat use and distribution of wildlife species by providing additional reliable water sources within the area while increasing life expectancy and dependability of wildlife catchments.
- Decrease maintenance needs by creating a reliable catch system.
- Continue the task through the Statewide Water Development Implementation Plan, and the regional wildlife water priority of redeveloping wildlife water catchments in GMU 13A that have failed or in disrepair due to age.
- Make progress in meeting BLM Desired Future Condition objectives for mule deer and bighorn sheep habitat as outlined by the BLM RMP.
- Increase life expectancy and dependability of this catchment
- Decrease or eliminate potential water hauling requirements to this development

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Utilize Big Game Special Tag Funds and cost sharing cost with the allotment permittee to:

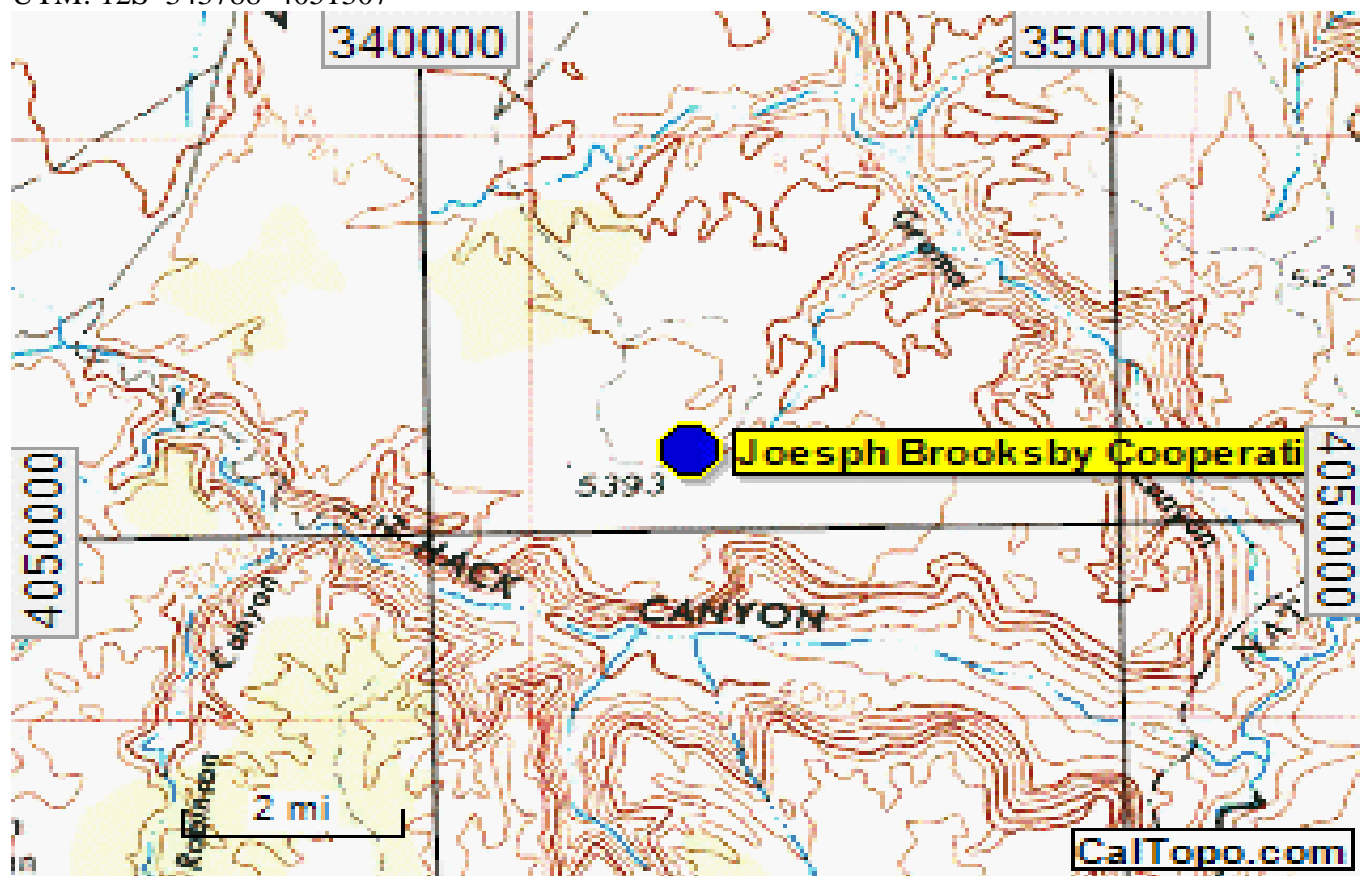
1. Purchase and install a new apron package (110' X 110') polyethylene apron material.
2. Have the materials delivered to the project site.
3. Allotment permittee will pay for all ground work and removal of old material as part of the cost share.

### PROJECT LOCATION:

Game Management Unit 13A

Mohave County, AZ

UTM: 12S 343788 4051307









**LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):**

(If the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

This project is located 100% on federally managed land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, AZ Strip Field Office.

*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*

YES[] NO[] N/A [X]

#### **HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

The Joseph Brooksby catchment is located in the Sunshine Point area and is best described as pinyon juniper woodland interfaces with desert scrubland to the east and north. Vegetation at the project site consists primarily of pinyon juniper trees. This catchment is located at approximately 5800' ASL. This area also provides various grass species such as wheat grass and grama grasses.

#### **ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

##### Special Big Game License Tag Funds

<b>Costs Category – Equipment, Labor, Materials, etc.</b>	<b>Grant Dollars Requested – Special Tag Funds</b>
<b>110' X 110' Polyethylene Apron Material plus freight and shipping</b>	<b>\$ 7,000.00</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 7,00.00</b>

##### **Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)**

Bill Gubler, the allotment permittee, is cost sharing \$3,000 which will be used to install the apron at the catchment site as well as uninstalling and removing the old apron material.

#### **LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

##### Arizona Game and Fish Department

- Personnel with the Arizona Game and Fish Department will request funding, provide project coordination, and disperse funds.

##### Bureau of Land Management

- BLM might be able to provide funding but it will not be known until the next fiscal year.

##### Allotment Permittee

- Will provide cost sharing dollars to complete all the labor for the project and removal of old materials.

**WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING,**

**OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?**

YES ☒ NO ☐ N/A ☐

History has shown that during travel management planning of the land management agencies, roads that have historic use and provide access to wildlife waters receive priority in remaining open to the public.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

After completion of this project, the cooperative catchment will be monitored by the District 13A Wildlife Manager. The allotment permittee will also monitor this water and provide any maintenance or water hauling needs that may exist.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

The allotment permittee will be in charge of all maintenance needs. All maintenance and access needs will be closely coordinated with the Arizona Strip BLM office and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

Jeremy Felish – Wildlife Manager III, GMU 13A

**WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS** *(please use the worksheet below):*

**TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS** *(please use the worksheet below):*

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Joseph Brooksby Cooperative Water Catchment Redevelopment

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**

No, but this water will provide a water source for mule deer and bighorn sheep in a critical summer habitat.

- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**  
Joe Currie, 2014

- 3) **What are the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (Mark one)**

☐ 2-4   ☐ 4-6   ☐ 6-8   ☒ 8-10   ☐ 10-12   ☐ 12-14   ☐ 14-16   ☐ >16

- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

YES☒ (please complete #5 below) NO ☐ (skip #5 below)

- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**

Name of water source: Sunshine Point

Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Catchment

Ownership of water source: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Distance in miles from project: Approximately: 4 air miles to the north

- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? YES ☒ NO ☐**

- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, and National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**

N/A

- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**

Type of access (mark one): ☐ 2x4 vehicles   ☒ 4x4 only   ☐ foot only\*\*

\*\*If foot access only: Distance in miles: N/A   Approximate hiking time: N/A

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES ☐ NO☒

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access: None.



**9) Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

- 110' X 110' polyethylene apron

**10) Was a site visit completed? Yes[**X**] No[]**

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

- BLM visited this site in August 2014